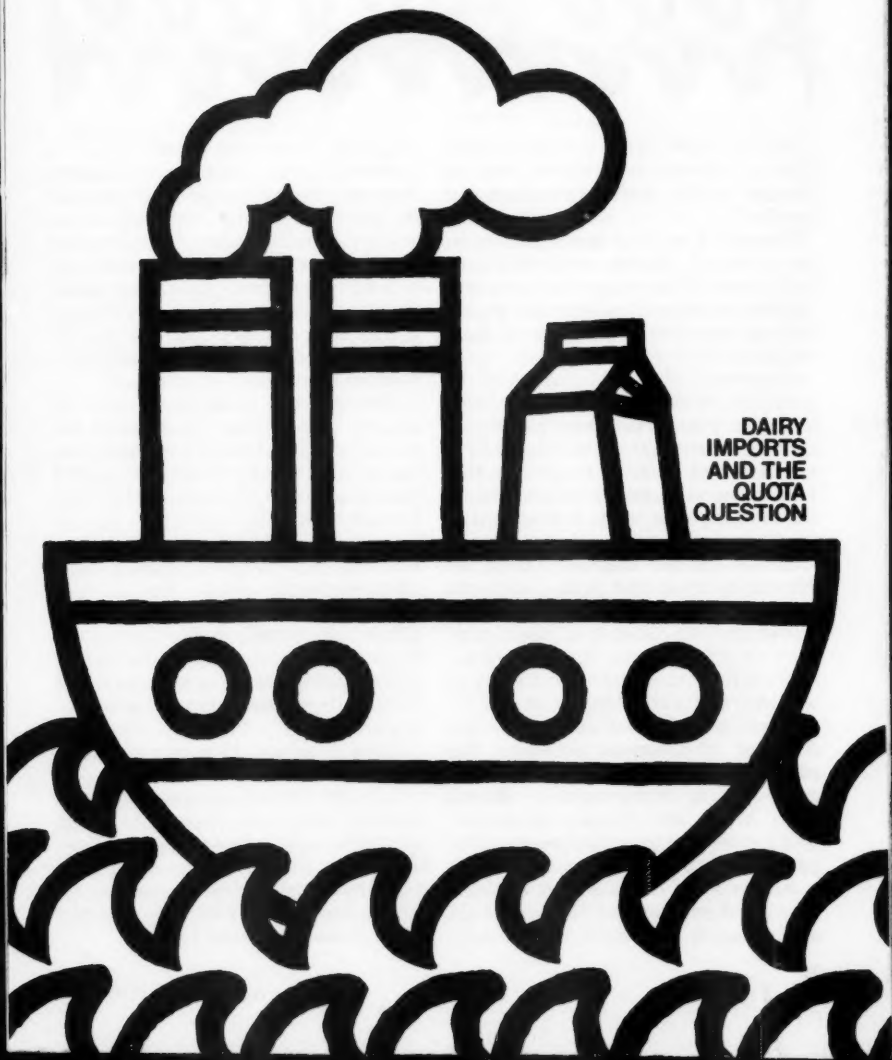
agricultural situation

THE CROP REPORTERS MAGAZINE • JUNE 1975
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE • STATISTICAL REPORTING SERVICE



DAIRY IMPORTS AND THE QUOTA QUESTION

DAIRY IMPORTS AND THE QUOTA QUESTION

What would happen if the United States allowed a heavier flow of foreign dairy products across its borders?

Congress wanted some answers, so it asked USDA economists to determine what stepped-up imports would mean for domestic dairy producers, handlers, processors, and consumers.

Currently, the U.S. market is shielded by import quotas, which limit dairy imports to less than 2 percent of domestic production. The quotas exist mainly to protect the U.S. price support program, which quarantees dairymen a floor price for their products.

If the United States relaxed its import quotas, the price supports would have to go too. Otherwise, the Government would find itself supporting prices on the world market.

Whether more dairy imports would benefit the United States in general is far from a clear-cut issue. A surge of overseas products, for example, would cause prices to nosedive—giving consumers a short-term break but forcing producers and processors to make some pretty painful adjustments.

And if the United States became heavily dependent on foreign products. . .could it count on steady supplies in years to come?

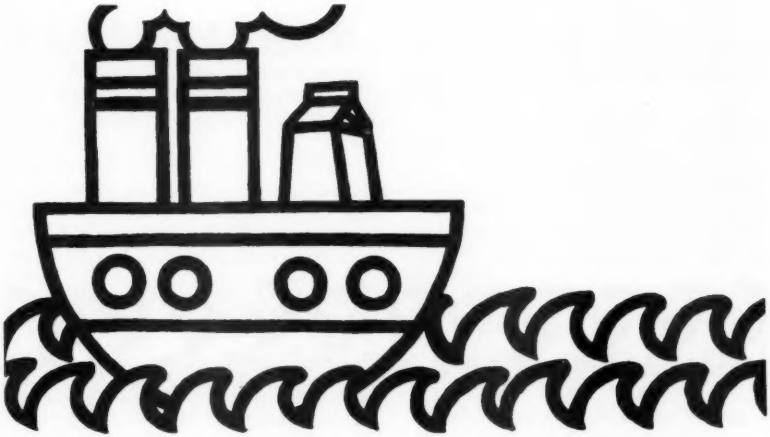
Sometimes, however, bigger imports can help producers as well as consumers. For instance, if a domestic shortage develops, imports can temporarily fill the gap and hold a rein on prices. Otherwise, consumers who refuse to pay the higher prices may simply not "be there" when supplies and prices return to normal.

Though the pros and cons of import quotas may be debated for some time, USDA economists took a look at how the dairy industry might fare from 1975 through 1980 if the United States followed any one of these trade policies:

1) continued import quotas and price supports,
2) free trade in dairy products around the world, and
3) an open U.S. market with no import quotas or price supports, but where other countries would be free to pursue any policy they choose.

Here's what the researchers found. . .

Imports. Continued quotas would hold dairy product imports at about 1.7 billion pounds of milk equivalents annually, whereas with free world trade, we'd import more than 5 billion pounds by 1980—or roughly three times the quota level.



Reaction to an open U.S. market would be swift and substantial. Had the United States dropped its barriers this year, more than 12 billion pounds (milk equivalents) of foreign dairy products might pour into this country by year's end, followed by 13 billion in 1976. That's about a tenth of American milk output.

Biggest contributor would be the European Community (EC) where short-term surpluses are beginning to pile up. But the high cost of subsidizing these exports will force the EC to trim its bulging stocks. In turn, U.S. imports would retreat to below 7 billion pounds by 1980.

Domestic output. If import quotas are maintained, U.S. milk production would climb gradually to around 119 billion pounds in 1980—compared with last year's 115 billion. Since free world trade would mean more imports, output would be 2 billion pounds less.

Production would suffer the most under the open market policy. The flooded market conditions following the dropping of U.S. trade barriers would force dairymen to cut production by as much as 10 billion pounds in 1976. Farm milk output would recover later in the decade, but only to about 112 billion pounds.

Milk consumption. America's appetite for milk products has been on the wane for some time—a trend that will stay with us if the United States keeps its quotas and price support programs. Experts say we'll use 523 pounds a person in 1980—down 21 pounds from 1974.

Low prices following the opening of U.S. markets would make the dairy counter a more popular spot, and consumption this year could shoot up 26 pounds a person. But as imports trickle off later in the decade, milk intake would skid to about 513 pounds in 1980—the lowest of the three alternatives.

Net income from dairying. With continued quotas, dairymen's earnings through 1980 would about equal their 1972 incomes in terms of purchasing power.

Opening the U.S. market, however, would translate into immediate producer losses. The massive tide of dairy imports reaching our shores in 1975 would drive wholesale prices below $7 per hundredweight, whereas producers would need nearly $9 to maintain 1972 income levels.

The depressed prices would force large numbers of marginal producers—as well as more efficient farmers with heavy debt loads—to

call it quits, especially if prices stayed low into 1976.

Dairymen who stick with it would see their earnings improve once imports taper off and prices strengthen. Nonetheless, there's a good chance that the early 1980's could usher in another surge of foreign milk products, and producers may fall into a bind again.

Dairy farms and processing plants. Regardless of import policy, fewer dairies will dot our landscape in 1980 as the trend toward fewer and larger farms continues.

Dairy numbers would shrink least with continued quotas. Even so, the number of dairy herds could plunge to about 203,000. Dropouts would be heaviest among dairies with less than 20 cows, which by 1980 would turn out only 2 percent of our milk.

Free trade would mean around 4,200 fewer herds than if we kept our quotas. But opening the U.S. market would cut the widest swath through the Nation's dairies. By 1980, herds could number as few as 186,000.

On the processing side, domestic cheese output is expected to soar more than a billion pounds from 1972 to 1980 if the United States sticks to its quotas and price supports. But about a fifth of all cheese processors would close their doors, as average output per plant rises sharply. Butter plants would shrink by more than two-fifths.

If the United States alone relaxed its trade barriers, drawdowns would be even steeper.

Consumer prices. This year, consumers' dairy bills would be about 15 percent smaller if the United States opened its markets rather than enforcing import quotas. Butter, for example, might retail for 82 cents a pound—versus 98 cents with continued quotas. But once imports start to trail off, consumers would be paying more than with the quotas.

In short, an open market policy wouldn't assure lower consumer prices but would probably create the most unstable market conditions of the three trade policies. If supplies from abroad start to dry up, U.S. producers, who slashed their output when imports flooded the market, would be unable to fill the gap. Prices, of course, would rise.

Free world trade would produce the lowest consumer prices of the three trade policies. Compared with last year, consumers would pay 16-22 percent more for selected dairy products, whereas continued import quotas would send prices 20-28 percent higher.

A LEISURELY MEAL

Getting shouldered out at the community feeding trough has got to be one of the more unpleasant aspects of a milk cow's life.

But bossy's lot could become a little easier, thanks to an electronic feed-dispensing system designed and developed by ARS researchers in Illinois. The system lets each cow get her full share—when she wants it—from a stall in a loose-housing area where the dairy herd is free to roam.

Cows aren't the only ones who stand to benefit. The system would save labor, as well as valuable feed resources, by making feeding more efficient. Researchers emphasize that when cattle feed at a common trough outside the milking parlor, it's hard to maintain grain consumption levels that are tailored to each cow's output.

Group feeding outside the milking parlor also involves shifting cows from one group to another to regulate their feeding levels. Besides taking time, transferring the animals affects the social order of the new group and ultimately lowers milk production.

On the other hand, cattle that are group-fed in milking parlors may not have time to eat all their production-geared rations while being milked. Parlor feeding can also lead to sanitation and fly problems.

How does the new system work? Each cow wears a neck collar fitted with a transponder—an electronically coded device that identifies the cow according to her milk production. When the cow moves her head into the feed trough, a coded device within the transponder starts to charge electronically, triggering a feed dispenser that slowly releases the cow's rations.

When the device is fully charged, the dispenser stops and the cow gets no more feed. But as the charge wears off, the cow may eat again. Rations are computed on a 12-hour basis, and may be eaten in as many—or as few—installments as the cow wants.

Engineers found that by calibrating the transponder and feed dispenser fairly accurately, errors in feeding rates can be held to within 10 percent of prescribed rations—a lot more control than dairymen can expect with conventional feeding practices.

DAIRY DATA

June is Dairy Month—a time to salute the milk producers and processors who make the U.S. dairy industry the most productive in the world. Here are a few quick facts about that industry. . .

Dairies: An estimated 470,140 farms with milk cows in 1974, compared with 1.1 million a decade ago.

Processing plants: About 3,000, or around half the tally 10 years earlier.

Farm milk production: Over 115 billion pounds last year, valued at over $9 billion.

Processed products: Some 952 million pounds of butter, 783 million gallons of ice cream, and a record 2.9 billion pounds of cheese in 1974. These and other products utilized more than 61 billion pounds of milk.

Milk cows: More than 11 million head on farms in February. During second half 1974, milk cow numbers rose for the first time in more than 20 years.

Production per cow: Over 10,000 pounds a year. That's a ton more than a decade earlier, and more than double the average 30 years ago.

IN THE BAG

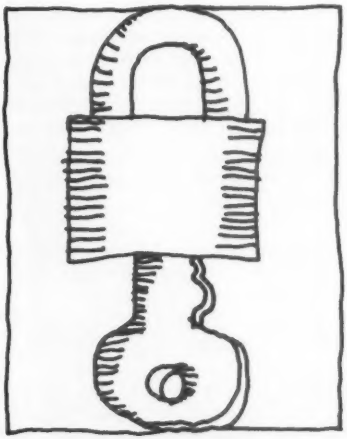
Safe storage of dried fruits may be "in the bag" with the development of a new insecticide-treated package.

The new storage bags, developed by USDA's Agricultural Research Service, have proven successful in protecting raisins, prunes, and mixed fruits such as apricots, pears, and peaches from invasion by a variety of damaging moths and beetles during storage.

Two insecticides incorporated in the adhesive layer of the bags, made from waterproof cellophane laminated with adhesive to polyethylene, prevent insects from penetrating the package walls.

Placed in special test rooms infested with nearly 70,000 insects, the bags completely protected prunes for at least 6 months without the fruit absorbing harmful amounts of residues from the insecticides.

Bagging dried fruits in the new packages could eliminate some of the $230,000 annual loss from insect-riddled prunes alone.



SRS SECURITY

Do SRS estimates leak out before official release?

The question pops up occasionally, and the answer is no.

Whenever there is a serious accusation about a leak in crop and livestock estimates, it's immediately referred to the official investigation unit of the Agriculture Department for a full scale examination, including interviews with persons outside SRS who might have been recipients of data and those inside who could have leaked the information.

The SRS reporting and security arrangements for the report in question are also thoroughly reviewed.

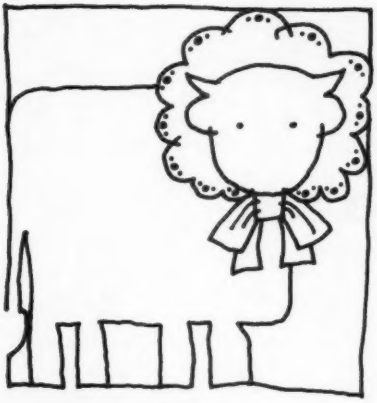
Those using SRS data must have confidence in the reliability and integrity of the information and the agency issuing it. Decisions involving billions of dollars are made by farmers and others based on these estimates.

SRS reports are especially sensitive to that portion of the agricultural industry built on day-to-day speculation, the commodity market.

SRS has developed elaborate security arrangements to make sure leaks don't occur intentionally or accidentally.

There is the well-known lock-up when particularly volatile reports are being readied; all those involved are out of touch with the world until they're finished and the report is released at 3 p.m., after the commodity markets close.

SRS employees face severe penalties if they disclose any information prematurely or publish false reports, and they are prohibited from trading on the commodity markets.



BABY BEEF: BACK AGAIN

Out of the picture for more than a decade, baby beef is making a comeback.

What's baby beef? There's really no official definition, but generally it's meat from young cattle raised mostly on milk and grass. Since it lacks the marbling of meat from mature grain-fed animals, baby beef has a somewhat different texture and flavor.

According to USDA's Economic Research Service, baby beef reappeared last summer when U.S. cattle producers ran into severe marketing problems. Summer drought and sparse feed grain supplies combined to drive up production costs, while cattle prices coasted downhill.

Locked in this grueling cost-price squeeze, cattle producers began selling their lean, young animals rather than placing them in feedlots to fatten on grain.

The surge of young beef coming to market prompted retailers to advertise the product at lower prices to consumers. From October to December, a USDA economist tracked baby beef promotions in food firms that accounted for over half of all retail food sales in 50 major metropolitan areas.

All beef described as "young lean," "light," "calf," "selected baby," and "selected young" was considered baby beef.

Retailers who regularly promoted the product were concentrated in the South and Southwest. Twenty-three firms featured baby beef in 11 of the region's 16 major urban areas.

Advertising was heaviest in Florida and Texas, where cattlemen's associations, retailers, and State agriculture departments lauched joint promotional ventures. In two of eight Western metropolitan areas, only two retailers advertised baby beef . . . and only sporadically. Promotion was sketchy in the rest of the country as well.

Though types of promotion varied, many retailers appealed to cost-conscious consumers by displaying baby beef prices opposite those for similar cuts of heavier beef. Pound for pound, baby beef fared well, especially for higher priced cuts.

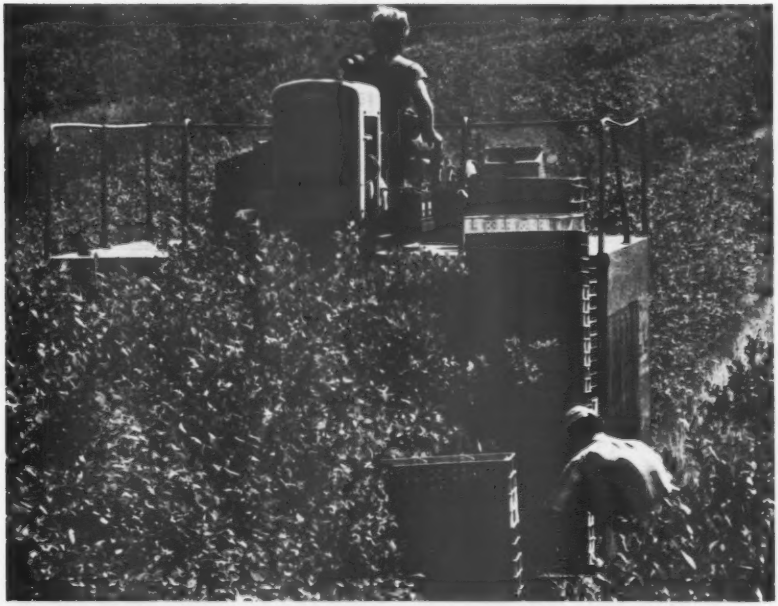
Chuck blade roasts, for example, cost consumers as much as 20 cents a pound less than similar cuts from grain-fed cattle. And baby beef sirloin, T-bone, and rib steaks ranged 40 to 60 cents per pound lower.

Besides inviting consumers to compare prices, some promotional materials included an explanation of baby beef as well as tips for preparing it. Certain newspapers picked up this theme by featuring the product in their food sections along with special recipes and serving suggestions.

Can baby beef make a successful comeback among a generation of consumers who've grown used to tender, marbled—though more expensive—cuts of beef? It's probably too soon to tell, but supplies are expected to be plentiful again this season, as heavy slaughter of cattle off grass is expected to continue throughout 1975. And given baby beef's favorable prices, its chances may be better than they've been in years.

BEATING THE BERRY BUSHES

Blueberries can be downright demanding. Not only do they require acid soil and favorable weather, but the little berries damage easily and up until lately, have exacted hours of tedious—and increasingly costly—hand labor. Scientists and engineers in East Lansing, Mich., have answered that last demand with a mechanized system that picks and handles the berries with minimal loss and barely a bruise. The harvester works quite simply. . .as it passes over the rows, it "beats" the bushes and shakes the ripe berries onto conveyor belts that whisk them along to containers stacked at the rear of the machine. Over the past 15 years, cooperative research between USDA's Agricultural Research Service and the Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station has resulted in mechanized harvesting systems for a number of other highly perishable and labor-intensive commodities. For scores of producers and processors, these systems spell the difference between staying in business and folding up under soaring labor costs.



Shaped like an inverted "U," the blueberry harvester thrashes the bushes as a fan separates the berries from the stems and leaves.

At the end of each row, filled containers at the rear of the machine are put on trucks and shipped to cleaning and grading facilities.

Above: Blueberries fly amid a blur of leaves as beaters inside the over-the-row harvester pummel the plants and knock the berries onto conveyors on either side of the bushes. A series of interlocking plates prevents the blueberries from spilling to the ground.

Left: A harvester shakes berries free with a hand-held electric vibrator. Eight times faster than hand harvesting, the vibrator still sees wide use, especially among relatively small producers.

SURVEYSCOPE

To give our readers a clearer picture of the vast scope of SRS activities, Agricultural Situation presents a series of articles on special surveys undertaken in various States. While these are not national surveys, they are important to the agriculture in individual States.

Nebraska farmers, unquestionably, are among the Nation's top grain producers.

For example, last year the State's 69,000 farms contributed to a harvest of 603 million bushels of grain and soybeans. The leader, of course, was corn at 381 million bushels, plus the other feed grains, sorghum, oats, and barley. Wheat meant almost 99 million bushels, soybeans totaled 29 million bushels, and there were lesser amounts of rye and popcorn.

In all, grains and soybeans were combined from 69 percent of the State's 17.8 million harvested acres.

But the trick in turning a profit is not solely in production but more frequently in hitting the market when demand and prices are in the farmer's favor . . . whether that's immediately after harvest, at mid-winter, or just before a new crop is ready to come out of the field and stocks are lowest.

On-farm storage facilities give producers flexibility in their marketing patterns. A survey by the Nebraska Crop and Livestock Reporting Service would seem to indicate the State's farmers have continued to upgrade on-farm storage facilities and have maintained a high level of capacity.

Corn and other grains mean big business in Nebraska, where growers who have on-farm

Doug Murfield, Statistician in Charge, says the survey, sponsored by the Nebraska Department of Agriculture and USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service, estimated on-farm storage facilities for 800 million bushels of grain and soybeans in early 1974. That was enough for 95 percent of Nebraska's 1973 crop.

Murfield added that farmers intended to add another 7 percent capacity during 1974. If they followed through on those plans, storage facilities on farms would have been sufficient to handle 856 million bushels. This would have accommodated all of the 1974 draught-reduced grain harvest.

In addition to the farm facilities, commercial and Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) storages at the time of the survey could hold another 464 million bushels. The combination of on-farm and off-farm units brought Nebraska's total grain storage capacity to 1,264 million bushels.

A similar survey conducted for 1968 indicated that farms could store 875 million bushels; while commercial and other facilities registered over 540 million bushels. The slump in off-farm storage between the two surveys occurred in CCC binsites.

Murfield noted that on-farm storage facilities from 1968 to 1974 showed a shift away from wood structures and ear corn storage to metal bins and specialized facilities for high moisture corn.

Circular metal bins were most common in the 1974 survey with 395 million bushels of storage space of the total 800 million on farms.

The farm grain storage survey also asked the 2,400 participating producers about grain driers. The estimate was 34,000 driers, compared with 20,000 in 1968 and 12,000 five years earlier. The 9,600 portable driers have the ability to process 21 million bushels of grain per day while the remaining 24,400 in-storage units can dry another 134 million bushels per season.

storage facilities can keep their harvested crops and sell when the price is right.

Briefings

RECENT REPORTS BY USDA OF ECONOMIC, MARKETING, AND RESEARCH DEVELOPMENTS AFFECTING FARMERS.

EGGS ON THE DOWNSIDE . . . U.S. egg output fell for the third straight year in 1974, as layer numbers averaged their lowest since 1938. Early 1975 brought lower-than-expected prices for eggs. Economists put part of the blame on steep sugar and oil prices, which limited baking and therefore weakened demand for egg products. On a brighter note, last year's small laying flock rallied to produce a record number of eggs per bird—230.5.

GETTING THE GYPSY . . . USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) reports only 410 leaf-eating gypsy moths were trapped in 17 States last year—quite an improvement from the 3,400 male moths captured in 1973. An APHIS official warns, however, that the pest may still be a problem since gypsy moth outbreaks aren't always predictable and another population explosion could be in store again this summer.

BETTER BEEF GRADES . . . USDA officials went back to the drawing boards and came up with a revised set of standards for grading beef. In effect since April 14, the revised standards allow slightly leaner beef to qualify for Prime and Choice grades; make the Good grade more restrictive; make eating characteristics—tenderness, juiciness, and flavor—more uniform in each grade; and require that all graded beef be identified for yield (percentage of retail cuts) as well as quality.

GRAZER'S EDGE . . . Livestock operators got a break this year when the Secretaries of Agriculture and the Interior issued a moratorium on a scheduled increase in grazing fees. Without the moratorium, the fee for grazing on lands administered by Interior's Bureau of Land Management would have gone from $1 to $1.51 per animal unit month (AUM), and from $1.11 to $1.60 per AUM on Forest Service lands. An AUM is the equivalent of one cow grazing 1 month. About 25,000 livestock operators now hold permits to graze roughly 9 million cattle and sheep—a total of 19 million AUM—on lands administered by the two agencies.

WAR ON WEEDS . . . A bill signed into law by President Ford early this year gives USDA command to halt the advance of the more than 1,400 species of foreign weed pests that pose a potential threat to U.S. agriculture. The new Federal Noxious Weed Act authorizes USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) to make port-of-entry inspections, start domestic surveys, and take eradication and quarantine measures if necessary. While mainly concerned with agriculture, the law also protects navigation, fish and wildlife resources, and public health.

SOYBEAN STARTERS . . . Despite a slow start, French soybeans remain a crop to watch. The drive to produce soybeans in France began in earnest last year following the world soybean crunch in 1973. But devastating weather slashed 20% from the 350,000 bushels the French intended to harvest. Farmers indicated little interest in planting soybeans this year—unless the soybean-corn price ratio moves to 2.5 in favor of soybeans. If this happens, experts say, look for France to have 250,000 to 350,000 acres in soybeans by 1980.

HAIL'S HAVOC . . . Over a 5-year study period, hail claimed 2¼% of the annual value of 20 basic crops. USDA economists say farmers have lost $685 million annually in recent years. Hardest hit has been wheat, with a quarter of the hail loss. Corn for grain followed with 18%; soybeans, more than 13%; and cotton, over 10%. The economists conducted the study as part of a larger National Science Foundation project to evaluate economic and other aspects of hail suppression.

PLANT PESTICIDES . . . Who would have thought that larkspur could be a natural enemy of lice and nits, or that a brief exposure to powdered garlic could devastate several species of ticks? USDA researchers have, and they've uncovered lots of plants that produce natural compounds that may help man control insects. A new handbook issued by USDA's Agricultural Research Service chronicles results from tests on nearly 1,500 plants. Entitled *Insecticides From Plants,* (Agricultural Handbook No. 461) the book is intended primarily as a scientific reference source. Copies are available from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. Price is $2.

PEST-FREE FORAGE? . . . Thanks to a grant by USDA's Cooperative State Research Service, researchers at the Kentucky State Experiment Station have embarked on a 3-year study to eliminate alfalfa pests. Present insect control measures, which require extensive use of

chemicals, produce only mixed results. One of the world's most valuable forage crops, alfalfa is widely recognized for its ability to improve soils, as well as produce heavy yields of high quality feed. These qualities have made alfalfa the most used of any single legume or grass species. But alfalfa's perennial growth habits make it a natural nursery for many insect species that eventually migrate to neighboring crops.

TURKEY DOWNTURN . . . Turkey production in 1974 fell only about 1% from a year earlier, but producers grossed nearly a third less. Gross income totaled $680 million—versus $936 million in 1973. Farm turkeys sold for about 28 cents a pound last year (live weight equivalent), down more than 10 cents from 1973.

WATCHING OUT FOR WATERFOWL . . . Finding a nesting place may be less of a hassle for our Nation's migratory waterfowl, thanks to a 1975 water bank program announced by Agriculture Secretary Butz earlier this year. First operated in 1972, the program compensates owners of eligible wetlands who agree to maintain their land as habitat for migrating geese, ducks, and other waterfowl. The program will continue to be concentrated in the northern part of the central (west of Red River) and Mississippi River waterfowl flyways. USDA's Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service administers the water bank program with planning assistance and technical services provided by USDA's Soil Conservation Service.

BANNED IN BRITAIN . . . U.S. hog producers can change that "banned" to "welcome" since the United Kingdom lifted its 20-year embargo on American pork on April 1. Reason for the about-face is that no case of hog cholera—called "swine fever" in England—has been reported in the 50 States over the past year. The hog industry is hoping that other countries that have barred U.S. pork products will follow Britain's lead. Before the U.S. hog cholera eradication program began in 1962, the highly contagious disease was costing U.S. producers more than $50 million a year.

LAND USE SURVEY . . . More than half of the Nation's 2.3 billion acres of land will soon come under scrutiny by USDA's Forest Service, which intends to review our recreation, wilderness, fish and wildlife, timber, water, and grazing potential. Besides cataloging current and anticipated use of the land for these purposes, the review will pinpoint ways to increase its future use and availability based on population growth, personal incomes, and related factors.

Statistical Barometer

Item	1973	1974	1975—latest available data
Farm Food Market Basket:[1]			
Retail cost (1967=100)	142	162	169 February
Farm value (1967=100)	167	178	173 February
Farmer's share of retail cost (percent)	46	43	40 February
Agricultural Trade:			
Agricultural exports ($bil.)	17.7	22.0	2.5 January
Agricultural imports ($bil.)	8.4	10.2	.8 January
Hogs and Pigs:			
Hogs and pigs on farms, March 1 (mil.)	41.5	42.7	35.4 March
Kept for breeding (mil.)	6.6	6.7	5.3 March
Market (mil.)	34.9	36.0	30.0 March
Sows farrowing, Dec.-Feb. (mil.)	1.9	1.9	1.5 March
Pig crop, Dec.-Feb. (mil.)	13.6	13.3	10.7 March
Pigs per litter, Dec.-Feb.	7.1	6.9	7.1 March
Acres Planted:			
Corn (thousands)	71,912	77,746	[2]75,290 March
Sorghum (thousands)	19,231	17,133	[2]18,855 March
Oats (thousands)	19,147	18,100	[2]18,189 March
Barley (thousands)	11,229	9,117	[2]10,184 March
Durum wheat (thousands)	2,952	4,074	[2]4,294 March
Spring wheat (thousands)	12,794	14,688	[2]13,384 March
Rice (thousands)	2,181	2,588	[2]2,561 March
Soybeans (thousands)	56,675	53,580	[2]56,632 March
Peanuts (thousands)	1,530	1,522	[2]1,529 March
Cotton (thousands)	12,480	13,979	[2]9,952 March
Sugarbeets (thousands)	1,280	1,254	[2]1,547 March
Farm Income:			
Volume of farm marketings (1967=100)	116	116	- - - - - -
Cash receipts from farm marketing ($bil.)	88.6	95.0	- - - - - -
Realized gross farm income ($bil.)	97.0	102.0	- - - - - -
Production expenses ($bil.)	64.7	74.8	- - - - - -
Realized net farm income ($bil.)	32.2	27.2	- - - - - -
Prices:			
Consumer price index, all items (1967=100)	133	148	157 February
Food (1967=100)	141	162	172 February

[1]Average annual quantities per family and single person households bought by wage and clerical workers, 1960-61, based on Bureau of Labor Statistics figures.
[2]Intentions.

AGRICULTURAL SITUATION

JUNE 1975 • VOL. 59 NO. 5
DIANE DECKER, EDITOR

The Agricultural Situation, published 11 times a year by USDA's Statistical Reporting Service, is distributed free to crop and livestock reporters in connection with their work. Contents of the magazine may be reprinted without permission. The Secretary of Agriculture has determined that the publication of this periodical is necessary in the transaction of the public business required by law of this Department. Use of funds for printing this periodical has been approved by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget through January 31, 1979. Subscription price $3.30 a year ($4.15 foreign). Single copies 30 cents. Order from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

☆ U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1975—650-468/2

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
STATISTICAL REPORTING SERVICE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250

OFFICIAL BUSINESS
PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE $300

To stop mailing ☐ or to change your address ☐ send mailing label on this magazine and new address to the SRS office in charge of your State.

POSTAGE AND FEES PAID
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE
AGR 101

U.S.MAIL

ASM UNIVM300UD R 1
UNIV MICROFILMS
JOY REED SUPVR PERIODICALS
300 N ZEEB RD
ANN ARBOR MI 48106